



U. S. Department of Justice

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 19, 2004**

**CONTACT: SUE McKINNEY**

**MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR MAILING AN ANTHRAX HOAX LETTER TO U.S. COURTHOUSE**

**MACON:** United States Attorney Maxwell Wood, announces on August 19, 2004 that **RICKY MASON**, of Houston County, Georgia, was sentenced on August 18, 2004 to ten (10) years in prison for mailing an anthrax hoax letter to Senior U. S. District Court Judge Wilbur D. Owens, Jr. Mason is in federal custody and will be transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to begin serving the 10 year sentence. There is no parole in the federal prison system.

The case was investigated by the Macon offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals Service. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Christian.

Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to Sue McKinney, Press Contact, United States Attorney's Office, at (478) 621-2602 or (478) 737-7408.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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MAXWELL WOOD  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY